

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application No. 09/399,862
Attorney Docket No. A8009

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended to more clearly define the invention.

The Examiner rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chang (USP 6,263,342). Appellant respectfully traverses this rejection, first with respect to claim 1, as now amended, in view of its requirement for:

from the federated data source, retrieving
data from:

one or more terminal data repositories, and

one or more search gateway data sources.

Chang does not teach or suggest retrieving data from a search gateway data source.

Appellant respectfully draws the attention of the Examiner to page 45, lines 7-17 of the originally-filed specification, at which passage a search gateway data source is described. There, the difference between a search gateway data source and the data sources pointed to in Chang by the Examiner is made clear. Chang's data sources are all regular terminal data repositories or federated data sources, but not search gateway data sources.

After reviewing this section, Appellant respectfully submits that the Examiner will agree that Chang does not teach, does not suggest, and does not even mention search gateway data sources. Since Chang does not teach or suggest such a feature, Appellant respectfully submits that Chang cannot reasonably be said to anticipate claim 1 within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Furthermore, Appellant respectfully submits that Chang contains no leading or suggestion to have led an artisan of ordinary skill to have made the additional, untaught modifications that would have been necessary to have achieved the subject matter of claim 1

Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-7.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
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Attorney Docket No. A8009

In view of the similarities between independent claim 1 and rejected independent claims 8 and 15, Appellant respectfully submits that independent claims 8 and 15 patentably distinguish over Chang for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1. Appellant therefore also respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of independent claims 8 and 15, and their respective dependent claims 9-14 and 16-21.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A method of searching for data in [one or more] heterogeneous data sources [within] with a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving a request for data at a federated data source; and
from the federated data source, retrieving data from:
[one or more of] one or more terminal data repositories, and [or]
one or more search gateway data sources.
6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving data from one or more search gateway data sources comprises submitting [an] a search gateway query from the federated data source to each search gateway data source.
8. (Amended) An apparatus for searching for data in one or more heterogeneous data sources, comprising:
a computer system [containing] accessing said one or more heterogeneous data sources; and
one or more computer programs, performed by the computer system, for:
receiving a request for data at a federated data source and, [from the federated data source,]
retrieving data from the federated data source from [one or more of] one or more terminal data repositories [or] and one or more search gateway data sources.

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Attorney Docket No. A8009

13. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein retrieving data from one or more search gateway data sources comprises submitting [an] a search gateway query from the federated data source to each search gateway data source.

15. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for searching for data in one or more heterogeneous data sources within a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for data at a federated data source; and

from the federated data source, retrieving data from [one or more of] one or more terminal data repositories [or] and one or more search gateway data sources.

20. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein retrieving data from one or more search gateway data sources comprises submitting [an] a search gateway query from the federated data source to each search gateway data source.